

Welcome to the Unity Democratic Club 2024 Candidate Application!

Local candidates who wish to be considered for the Unity Democratic Club endorsement **must** fill out the application. Please answer all questions below in a few sentences to a paragraph.

- The deadline to submit an application is **January 15th**. The endorsement meeting for prospective candidates is tentatively scheduled for the end of January. Candidates who fill out the application will be asked to attend candidate forums and Zoom meetings held prior to the endorsement meeting. Candidates are encouraged to fill out the application as soon as possible in order to be invited to the candidate forums.
- This application is open to all candidates whose district is in some way coterminous with the northwest Bronx.
- We understand that not all of the following questions are germane to each candidate's race (for instance, asking potential party position candidates for their opinion on public policy issues). Please answer to the best of your ability.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. Name *

3. What elected position/district are you running for?

Candidate values and feasibility

- 4. **1. Feasibility:** How would you frame the current state of your race and your campaign? What does your path to victory entail and how will you reach it? Specifics around volunteers and volunteer capacity and who is running your team are very welcome.

- 5. **2. Coalition building:** What key endorsements are you seeking? Do you have the support of unions or grassroots organizations?

- 6. **3. Donations:** Do you pledge to refuse PAC money or donations from REBNY, corporate donors, super PACs, or other organizations or unions that regularly endorse Republicans and conservative candidates? Who are your top three donors both within and out of the district?

7. **4. Management and leadership:** Please provide your professional resume and describe, in detail, your management and executive skills.

8. **5. Co-governance:** What do “community governance” and “community engagement” mean to you?

9. **6. Coordination and base building:** After the campaign is over, what will you do to help build grassroots power here in the northwest Bronx and for our club? Would you be willing to sign a coordination pledge, win or lose, to help grow our club even after the campaign season is over?

10. **7. Candidate cooperation:** What impact would the UD endorsement have on your campaign? What level of involvement would you expect from the UD for your campaign?

Policies

11. **1. Legacy:** What is the legacy you would hope to leave behind in your position? Specifically, what policy issues would you hope to tackle during your time in office and even risk political capital to fight for?

12. **2. Time in office:** What is your position on term limits for elected officials? Should we have them and for how long should an elected official serve their district?

13. **3. Housing:** Our membership cites housing as the most important policy issue. What is your vision around building more affordable and rent-controlled units in the northwest Bronx? Additionally, do you support ending parking minimums for new housing, exclusionary density policies in suburbs, and converting office space to housing (per [Sen. Brad Hoylman’s bill in the State Senate](#) and [Kathy Hochul’s policy proposal for housing from January 2023](#))?

14. **4. Housing:** Once in office, how would you work across levels of government to solve our homeless crisis and ensure that unhoused people are treated with dignity?

15. **5. Housing:** As reported this past year, tenants at [the Amalgamated Houses](#) and at [NYCHA complexes here in the northwest Bronx](#) are in dire need of repairs and capital funding? How would you use your office to expand tenants’ rights and specifically solve problems in Amalgamated and NYCHA housing?

16. **6. Women’s rights and LGBTQ+ rights:** We are currently seeing many attacks on LGBTQ+ rights and abortion rights across the country. What policies would you push to protect LGBTQ+ New Yorkers? How would you ensure abortion rights in New York State?

17. **7. Party reform:** UD members ranked reform of the Democratic Party as their second most important issue this election cycle. Realistically, how would you navigate existing political machines and insider connections with community interests? How would you remain independent from existing political machines?

18. **8. Party reform:** What is your vision for party reform? How would you work to make the Democratic Party in the Bronx more transparent and open to the people? Do you support reforming the New York State Democratic Party and a change in state party leadership?

19. **9. Migrant crisis:** How would you work to ensure that immigrants and migrants are protected in New York? Please also specify where you stand on the possible conversion of Overlook Manor to house migrants and homeless persons.

20. **10. Healthcare:** In the past decade, at the state and federal level, great strides have been made in the expansion of healthcare for low-income New Yorkers. What would you do in office and what policies around healthcare would you support to support low-income New Yorkers?

21. **11. Transportation:** What are the major transportation issues facing the northwest Bronx? What is your vision for public transportation in the northwest Bronx? Do you support the implementation of congestion pricing as it currently stands?

Questions from groups and community organizations that have presented to our club in the past year

22. **1. The Armory:** As the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition (NWBCCC) conveyed in a presentation to our club earlier this year, the fight over developing the Armory rages on. Developers and Governor Hochul have recently announced a plan to redevelop the Armory. What is your position on this proposed redevelopment? If you oppose it, how would you use your office to ensure that a different plan is realized?

23. **2. Tax and budget fairness:** As a UD member conveyed in a presentation to our club earlier this year, the Invest in Our New York (IONY) coalition is a group of grassroots organizations that is fighting for a fairer tax code and inclusive investments in our state budget.

[Do you support IONY's plan for New York's budget?](#) Why or why not?

24. **3. Criminal justice reform:** As members from Releasing Aging People in Prison Campaign (RAPP) conveyed in a presentation to our club earlier this year, we currently have a parole system in this state that does not ensure the fair release of older adults from our prison system. [They are calling for a series of bills to be passed for elder parole, fair and timely parole, and a more diverse parole board. Do you support these bills?](#) Why or why not? How does elder parole fit into your broader vision of criminal justice reform?

25. **4. Neighborhood equity:** As the Women of Woodlawn (WoW) conveyed in a presentation to our club earlier this year, residents of Woodlawn, Norwood, and Wakefield have been cut off from walking and biking to the northwest side of the Bronx due to the Major Deegan and existing infrastructure. Plans to build a pedestrian bridge have long been delayed with further delays being reported this past year. What would you do in office to ensure that the pedestrian bridge is built?

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